

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN AID-59

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: FOOD STOCKS FOR NIGER AND MALI

REFS: (A) NIAMEY 3097 (B) STATE 183681 (C) NIAMEY 2922

(D) COTONOU 1115

1. REF (A) RAISES THREE ISSUES WHICH REQUIRE CLARIFICATION:

(A) NIGER NEED FOR USG STOCKS: THE USG HAS RESPONDED TO
GON REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD STOCKS BY EARMARKING 1,500
MT STOCKS CURRENTLY IN COTONOU FOR NIGER. IT IS ASSUMED
THAT GON WILL MEET ITS FREE DISTRIBUTION FOOD NEEDS FROM
IN-COUNTRY STOCKS UNTIL COTONOU STOCKS ARRIVE NIGER. WE
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HAVE NOT RPT NOT SEEN ANY EVIDENCE WHICH SUGGESTS THAT

GROUPS OF NIGERIENS WILL BE THREATENED BY HARDSHIP IF COTONOU STOCKS DO NOT ARRIVE NIGER WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS. WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT COTONOU STOCKS WILL BE USEFULLY PROGRAMMED UPON ARRIVAL IN NIGER, GON'S ABILITY TO MEET FOOD NEEDS FROM EXISTING STOCKS OVER NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS PRECLUDES SITUATION FROM BECOMING CRITICAL IN SHORT-TERM.

(B) PARAKOU BOTTLENECK: NIAMEY MISSION HAS REPORTED(REF (C)) THAT REAL BOTTLENECK ON COTONOU/GAO LINE IS AT PARAKOU RATHER THAN COTONOU. IN THIS CONNECTION OCDN HAS INTERRUPT-

ED SHIPMENT OF USG STOCKS FROM COTONOU TO PARAKOU UNTIL HIGHER EVACUATION RATE OF COMMODITIES (COMMERCIAL AND RELIEF) IS ACHIEVED FROM PARAKOU. IN ORDER RELIEVE TRANSPORT STRAIN, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED (STATE 183681) THAT GON INTENSIFY ITS EFFORT TO EVACUATE GON GOODS FROM PARAKOU, THEREBY FREEING UP SOME TRANSIT SPACE FOR USG STOCKS DESTINED FOR MALI.

(C) U.S. SORGHUM FOR MALI: AS EVACUATION RATE OF NIGER COMMODITIES FROM PARAKOU IS IMPROVED, OCDN WILL BE ABLE TO RESUME FORWARDING USG STOCKS FROM COTONOU. AT THE CURRENT RATE OF EVACUATION (REF (D)) OF RELIEF GOODS FROM COTONOU IT WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY SIX DAYS TO EVACUATE ALL USG STOCKS DESTINED FOR MALI FROM COTONOU (I.E., AFTER OCDN AND GON AGREE THAT PARAKOU SITUATION IS SUFFICIENTLY IMPROVED TO PERMIT RESUMPTION OF SORGHUM FLOW FROM COTONOU).

2. IN ADDITION TO BEING RESPONSIVE TO RECENT GON REQUEST FOR DONATED FOOD STOCKS, DEPARTMENT AND AID MUST BE CONCERNED ABOUT LONG STANDING COMMITMENT TO MALI WITH RESPECT TO FOOD GRAIN DELIVERY FROM COTONOU. BELIEVE MOST OBJECTIVE COURSE OF ACTION AT THIS TIME IS TO AUTHORIZE SIMULTANEOUS MOVEMENT OF USG COTNOU STOCKS TOWARD FINAL DESTINATIONS (I.E., GAO AND NIAMEY). ACCORDINGLY, SOCOPAO AND SOCOTRA WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO FORWARD/RELEASE REMAINING PORTION OF COTONOU STOCKS IN EQUAL TRANCHES TO MALI AND NIGER WHILE CONFORMING TO GOAL TOTALS OF 2,194 MT FOR MALI AND 1,500 MT FOR NIGER. DURING PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK REQUIRED TO EFFECT CONTRACT MODIFICATIONS WE AS-

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SUME MOVEMENT OF FOOD STOCKS TO MALI WILL CONTINUE.

3. FOR ABIDJAN: SEPTTEL FOLLOWS DIRECTLY ON SUGGESTED WORDING FOR REVISED CONTRACTS;

DECONTROL: 2/8/76. KISSINGER

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